

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF NEWPORT PAGNELL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1971

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CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

COUNCILLOR F. JAMES

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE:

CHAIRMAN -- COUNCILLOR P.W. MASON

MEMBERS -- COUNCILLOR A.A. CLAY,
COUNCILLOR W.W. FINLOW,
COUNCILLOR S.W. INGHAM,
COUNCILLOR A. LEARY,
COUNCILLOR J.M. MACDONELL

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF:

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

DR. P. LAVIS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., M.F.C.M.

(The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for the Borough of Buckingham, the Urban Districts of Blotchley and Wolverton, the Rural Districts of Buckingham, Newport Pagnell and Winslow; Area Medical Officer for North Bucks, and Divisional School M.O. for the North Bucks. Division and the Buckingham and Winslow Districts.)

DEPUTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

DR. SUSAN HETHERINGTON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., M.F.C.M.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR & HOUSING MANAGER

S.R. BAYLIS, M.A.P.H.I., Meat and Food Inspector,
Cert. S.I.B., National Cert. Building.

Council Offices,
Lovan Bank,
Silver Street,
NEWPORT PAGNELL.

May, 1972.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,


I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1971.

A little more attention is being given to the quality of life and 1971 has generally been a year where much more publicity has been given to the pollution aspect of this, heightened by a number of dramatic national and international incidents giving rise to hazardous situations. Locally, for example, the Ouzel was subjected to toxic materials on more than one occasion up-stream. Unfortunately the mass communication media tend to give emphasis to the more hair raising prophesies of doom concocted by some individuals and this might result in a general reaction to regard all warnings of coming problems with cynicism and treat them as fictional. Unless this problem is treated seriously by each individual, in the years to come responsibility will have to be transferred from the individual to a more authoritarian type Government that will act for the individual.

This responsibility must be taken across all fields of activity from mundane matters such as reducing the quantity of waste materials by considering the real need for a lot of packaging to more esoteric matters such as the wisdom of producing large families. Many, if not most of our problems would be brought into manageable proportions if the population could be reduced or at least stabilised. There is an urgent need for a free family planning service to be provided within the National Health Service.

For the present, the size of the population demands more living space and Milton Keynes will develop on an expanding Newport's doorstep. Considerable problems of sewerage and water drainage are being presented and the Council is right in looking very seriously into these matters which are made more difficult by the local topography and existing water-courses.

Shortly after this report is due to be published, I anticipate that the Government will have made known its intentions on the reorganisation of the National Health Service in 1974. The Council has already shown its concern over the size of community representation in the forthcoming new larger District Councils, and I would like it to consider this aspect of The New Area Health Boards. This "consumer representation" has not been a feature of the present health set-up, but there should be an opportunity for more adequate public representation in 1974 provided the case for this is properly put forward.



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I must thank the Public Health Inspector for the diligence he consistently exercises in attempting to maintain and improve standards particularly in the food hygiene field, and this is showing dividends by the absence of any major food poisoning incidents.

Both Mr. Baylis and I, of course, thank Councillors for the continued support and appreciation they have shown in tackling the variety of problems encountered during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

P. Lavis.

Newport Pagnell Urban District Council
Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the year 1971

SECTION A

GENERAL STATISTICS

	<u>1971</u>	<u>1970</u>
Area (in acres)	3,432	3,432
Number of Inhabited Houses	2,239	2,133
Population	6,360	6,070
Rateable Value	£327,559	£306,143
Rate per Pound	79½p	14/2
Product of 1d. rate (estimated)	(1p) £3,650	£1,249 (1d)

VITAL STATISTICS

Births:

Legitimate Males	73	52
Females	59	41
Illegitimate Males	4	3
Females	1	2
Stillbirths	1	0
Birth rate per 1,000 pop. (adjusted)	22.1	16.6
Birth rate per 1,000 pop. (England & Wales)	16.0	16.0

Deaths:

Males	52	51
Females	51	57
Death rate per 1,000 pop. (adjusted)	8.9	9.8
Death rate per 1,000 pop. (England & Wales)	11.6	11.7
Infant Mortality (Deaths under one year per 1,000 births)	8.0 (1 death)	31 (3 deaths)
Infant Mortality (England & Wales)	13.0	13.0

Infectious Diseases Notified:

Whooping Cough	1	-
Measles	21	22

Principal Causes of Death:

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	7	-	7
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	1	-	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	1	2	3
Diabetes Mellitus	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System	-	1	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	-	1	1
Hypertensive Disease	1	1	2
Ischaemic Heart Disease	14	13	27
Other Forms of Heart Disease	2	3	5
Cerebrovascular Disease	4	6	10
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	3	1	4
Pneumonia	10	15	25
Bronchitis and Emphysema	4	2	6
Congenital Anomalies	-	1	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-	1
All Other Accidents	-	2	2

TOTAL :	52	51	103
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PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICESArea Health Office:

224 Queensway, Bletchley (Tel., Bletc. 4701).

Ambulance Service:

Administered by the Bucks. County Council, main North Bucks. Station at Bletchley, with a sub-station at Newport Pagnell.

Hospitals:

Under the Oxford Regional Hospital Board, General Hospitals at Bedford, Northampton and Aylesbury.

Outpatient facilities available at Wolverton and Bletchley.

Newport Pagnell - Westbury (Maternity)
& Renny Lodge (Geriatric).Health Visitors, District Nurses, Midwives:Based at Ousebank,
Work with the General Practitioners.Child Health Clinic:

Congregational School Room, High Street, Newport Pagnell on first and third Wednesdays in each month at 2 p.m.

School Health Services:

Administered from the Area Health Office. This includes arrangements for examination of pupils in accordance with the Education Act, 1944, ascertainment of handicapped pupils and arranging appropriate treatment.

The child guidance and dental clinics under this service are situated at Whalley Drive, Bletchley.

Vaccination and immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Measles, Rubella, Tetanus, Polio and Tuberculosis is undertaken.

Health Education:

Organiser - Mr. T. Watson at the Area Health Office.

Contraception Advice:Weekly Clinics held at Whalley Drive and Katrine Place, Health Clinics, Bletchley and Meacham Clinics, Wolverton by the Family Planning Association.
By appointment (Tel. Bletchley 2285).Cervical Cytology:

By private Dr. or for appointment at Local Authority Clinics (Telephone Bletchley 4701).

Marriage Guidance Council:

Interviews held at Whalley Drive Health Clinic, for appointment (Tel. Bletch. 4500).

Occupational Therapy Unit:

Area Therapist - Mrs. Osborne at 226 Queensway (Telephone Bletchley 2073).

Social Services Department:Maybrook House, 224 Queensway, Bletchley,
Area Social Worker - Mr. P.K. Smith
(Telephone Bletchley 4701).

REPORT OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR
1971

Introduction and General Remarks

I suppose that on reflection 1971 will turn out to have been the year that Milton Keynes began to be translated from paper to concrete. All the proposals concerning Local Government Reform seem also to be destined to be transformed into reality in April, 1974.

The influences of these immense projects will have a greater impact upon Public Health considerations for this town than anything happening within our own boundaries, which in any case seem destined to be short lived.

Admittedly, crucial decisions have had to be made regarding the town's sewerage and refuse disposal, but these matters have had to be viewed with more than half an eye on developments in the New City, and changes in Local Government.

As the following sections of the report will make clear, this has been a year of consolidation and steady progress.

S. R. Baylis.
Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING

(Other than Housing Management)

	<u>1971.</u>
Houses erected post war by Local Authority	313
Houses erected by Local Authority during 1971	Nil
Houses erected by private enterprise during 1971	141
Houses demolished or closed (Sec. 17 - Housing Act 1957)	Nil
Houses demolished or closed (Sec. 42 - Housing Act 1957)	Nil
Improvement Grants (Discretionary) since inception of scheme	105
Standard Grants since inception of scheme	134
Improvement Grants (Discretionary) approved uring 1971	9
Standard Grants approved during 1971	11
Qualification Certificates issued during 1971	3

PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health Inspections:

During the year the following visits were made:

Public Health Inspections (including Meat and Food)	798
Housing Inspections	136
Total Visits of all kinds	1,590

Food Surrendered or Condemned:

Carcase Meat & Offal	122 lb
Canned Meat & Meat Products	43 lb
Fish	43 lb
Frozen Food to the Value of	£41

Refuse Collection:

Further extensions have taken place in the number of premises served by the paper sack system. All except 650 houses are now served by this method and half of these will be converted during 1972.

The Council has decided to abolish the Willen Road Tip and early next year the tip in the Rural District will be used by both the Newport Councils.

Rodent Control:

During the year 656 properties were visited by the Rodent Operator to private property, factories, shops; and Local Authority sewers and property.

The contract scheme for the monthly inspection of business premises is well supported, 8 firms now take part. No undue difficulties were encountered but the cessation of tipping at Willen Road should be beneficial.

Flood Relief, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal:

The completion of the Wolverton Road Relief Sewer in the early part of the year enabled a start to be made on the development of H.O.1, the large area of future housing development on the north west side of the Town.

Difficulties referred to in my last Annual Report regarding the selection of a site for a new pumping station have now been resolved and at the end of the year consulting engineers were designing the scheme. Concurrently the Milton Keynes Development Corporation is working on the large new sewage works near Willen which will eventually receive all the sewage from this town via the new pumping station.

As the planned intentions for the development of the Town are fulfilled the spare capacity of the sewage works has reduced to a very small amount, but it is expected that the new arrangements for sewage disposal will be in operation before the capacity of the present works is exceeded. Work in connection with the Milton Keynes Development Corporation's storm water proposals i.e. development of Sherington pits and the large storm water sewer leading to them, was ready to start at the end of the year.

Noise and Atmospheric Pollution:

No undue difficulties were encountered. Thanks to the co-operation of the Gas Board and their Sub-Contractors, a new plastic gas main was installed in Silver Street with the minimum of disturbance from drills compressors and special welding equipment.

Standards of cleanliness in the food premises in the town have been maintained. The public in general are quite rightly much more hygiene conscious and frequent visits and inspections are made to make sure that things are as they should be.

Delivery Vehicles and Stalls:

The standard of wholesale vehicles and delivery methods have been improved probably as a result of matters taken up with individual firms and because these firms are conscious that their deliveries are often made in the public eye.

Ice Cream

33 samples of ice cream were taken for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory, Bedford.

The general standard was satisfactory. Where unsatisfactory samples were received a further investigation was made and matters promptly rectified. In one case it was found that the cartons used for the storage of ice cream had been badly stored when empty and were not sterile.

Milk Supply:

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority for the whole County excluding the Boroughs of High Wycombe and Slough. As such, the programme of sampling of all food and drink including milk is related to the County as a whole and not to any specific area. 152 samples were taken from the area supplying Newport Pagnell, analysis revealed a very satisfactory standard.

There are five registered distributors of milk and no registered dairy premises (other than farms) in the District. One of the milk distributors retails only "Long Life" milk, a new development in the dairy industry. This milk has long shelf life at ordinary temperatures.

No case of brucella abortus has been reported and no samples of raw milk have been taken by U.D.C. Officers.

Water Supply:

The water supply is wholly provided by the Bucks Water Board, and comes to Newport Pagnell from Grafham (via Amptwell) and Ash Hill.

Quantity and quality during 1971 were satisfactory. No contamination of the supply was detected.

All the dwellings in the town (estimated 2,329 with an estimated population of 6,800) were supplied with mains water. As far as is known, all except two houses have an internal supply.

No fluoridation of water supplies is undertaken by the Board, the natural fluoride content is approximately 0.4 parts per million.

Chemical and bacteriological samples are regularly taken by the Water Board.

An additional check on bacteriological purity is by samples taken by the Public Health Inspector which are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service. All 14 samples taken were satisfactory.

Food Premises subject to the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970

The following information is required to be included in the Report by the Department of Health and Social Security.

Premises	Total
Bakers & cake shops	3
Butchers	5
Confectioners	5
Distributors of Milk	5
Office & Factory Canteens	6
Fish Shops (Wet & Fried) & Take-away Food Premises	3
Food Factories	1
Greengrocers	4
Grocers	12
Licensed Premises	14
Restaurants & Hotels	5
Sale of Ice Cream	18
TOTAL	81

Suitable personal washing facilities and facilities for the washing of equipment and food were provided at all the premises.

Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing premises within the district other than the local trade carried on by one butcher with a game licence.

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963:

Although frequent inspections were carried out no serious contraventions of the Act were detected. Very few accidents have been reported and a reminder of their obligation to report these is being sent to all Employers.

The table below shows details of registrations and inspections:-

Class of Premises	No. of Premises registered during the year.	Total number of premises registered at the end of year	No of premises receiving a detailed insp. in 1971.
Offices	4	22	6
Retail shops	8	58	12
Wholesale shops and Warehouses	2	2	1
Catering estab. open to public and Canteens	2	6	2
Fuel Storage Depots	-	1	-
TOTAL	16	89	21

Total number of visits of all kinds by the Public Health Inspector to registered premises under the Act = 50.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act 1961 as required by the
Department of Health & Social Security

Part 1 of the Act

1. - INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector):

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	3	1	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	34	7	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	37	8	-	-

2 - Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prose- cutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Reme- died (3)	Referred To H.M. Insp. (4)	By H.M. Insp. (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	1	-	-	-

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork (Sections 133 and 134)

Three outworkers were notified in the August list required by Section 133. These concerned wearing apparel. There has been no evidence of cases of default in sending lists to this Council. There have been no prosecutions for failure to supply lists. No instances of work in unwholesome premises arose for action under Section 134.

HOUSING MANAGEMENT

2, 3, and 4 Bedroomed Accommodation:

During the year 43 applications were received, but the size of the waiting list was reduced by rehousing 12 applicants. The list was further reduced by applicants who withdrew for a variety of reasons or who did not re-register in March and October.

Applicants are placed in the following categories:-

<u>Group</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Number of Applicants as at 31.12.71</u>
A	Medical Cases	1
B	Unsatisfactory Houses	3
C	General N.P. Applicants	33
D	Unavoidably left Newport Pagnell	8
E	Servicemen & Applicants from away	5
F	Engaged couples	3
G	Industrial workers	5
& H	Existing tenants wishing to transfer	10
TOTAL		<u>68</u> (1970 = 88)

Old Persons Accommodation

At the end of 1971 the waiting list contained the names of 37 applicants for one bedroomed accommodation (1970 = 39) and there were 31 applicants on the bed-sitter list (1970 = 30).

During the year there were 10 new applicants for one bedroomed accommodation and 10 new applicants for bed-sitter accommodation. Some applications were withdrawn and some applicants did not re-register.

Five properties were let to persons on the waiting lists.

Annual Number of Re-lets (no Council houses were built during 1971)

9 older type properties in Priory Street were purchased.

Although the level of unemployment was a great concern to the Government nationally there appears to have been very little local unemployment in spite of the difficulties encountered by local firms.

It is hoped that a new warden-controlled scheme for elderly people will be built on the Dovecote Land during the coming year.

The chart below show accommodation re-let in the last five years, to persons on the waiting lists.

<u>Type of Accom</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>
2 - 4 Bedroomed	16	10	14	10	12
1 Bedroomed	4	4	6	2	2
Bed-sitters	3	2	5	4	3
TOTAL	23	16	25	16	17

Exchanges and Transfers:

In addition to properties re-let to applicants from the waiting lists, 3 existing tenants exchanged tenancies with each other; and 5 existing tenants were allowed to transfer to other Council property becoming vacant, which was more suitable to their needs.

Exchanges and transfers not only assist the tenants, but help to make the best use of the Council's property.

Location of Accommodation

	Bed-sit accommodation											
	1 bed. bungalow	Bed-sit gr. fl. flat	Bed-sit 1st fl. flat	1 bed gr. fl. flat	2 bed gr. fl. flat	1 bed 1st fl. flat	3 bed 1st fl. flat	3 bed 2nd fl. flat	2 bedroomed houses	3 bedroomed houses	4 bedroomed houses	
Windsor Avenue	6								14	5		
Bury Close	5											
Queens Avenue	6								18	23		
Almond Close	18	1										
Cherry Road	4	2							4	25	4	
Annesley Road										32	2	
Baldwin Crescent										4	2	
Beech Road										4		
Carrington Road										9		
The Grove										20		
Purcel Drive										14		
Whaddon Road										27		
Line Close									4			
Balmoral Court		2		3			3	3				
Buckingham Court		2		3			3	3				
Sandringham Court		2		3			3	3				
Whitethorns										11		
Linford Lane										16		
Deal House		2	2	2		2						
Dover House				3		3						
Hastings House		1	2		1	2						
Hythe House				3		3						
Ronney House		2	2	2		2						
Rye House				3		3						
Tickford Street	16										4	
London Road										14		
TOTAL	22	36	11	6	22	1	15	9	9	40	203	8

GRAND TOTAL = 387 dwellings built and owned by the
Newport Pagnell Urban District Council.

